

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

by Bruce Barrett

Soar on Open Wings

Emily Golinsky beams.

"Camp changed my life," she says.

Emily coordinates programs for kids at Duxbury's Camp Wing, the combination day camp and overnight camp filling 220 acres of woods, streams, and wide-open spaces where Keene and Myrtle Streets cross in northwest Duxbury.



"Camp makes the world," she says, "a more open place."

Michael Fantom, programs director, shares that view and shares Emily's personal connection to the movement. His experience goes back to Rugby Camp when he grew up in Edinburgh, Scotland. Michael points out how different camp is from school. Camp allows a focus on relationships on the bonding possible when everyone comes because they want to be together.

Camp Wing shares that focus from top to bottom. In mission statement form – "supportive environment of emotional and physical safety" – the philosophy is strong enough. Hear it from Michael or Emily, face-to-face, eye-to-eye, and you'll know they mean it at Camp Wing. Top to bottom, and side to side.

The Day Camp and the Overnight Camp are two sides of the same organism, sharing the same philosophy. Camp Wing Day Camp offers premium day camp fare, from canoes, arts and crafts, and archery to swimming, goofy songs, and more swimming. The day camp serves South Shore kids from 5 to 13 years old, with Leaders in Training from 14 to 16 years old. Two-week sessions cost about \$400. Leaders in Training pay only \$220 per session. Bus transportation from central stops in Duxbury and most surrounding towns adds \$50 per session, and extended day (7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., no bus) adds \$80 per session. Day campers get a free, optional overnight once each session. Call 834-2700 for details, or to arrange a Thursday evening tour. Visit online at campwingdaycamp.org.

Overnight Campers enjoy the same facilities and programs, with the added learning opportunities of an overnight camp. Occasionally, camp-wide events bring children from the two programs



together, but day-to-day activities are usually separate. Day campers come from Duxbury and neighboring towns. The

overnight camp, on the other hand, serves "the most vulnerable youth populations including foster children, DSS wards, the homeless, minorities, children who have been abused or neglected, and those who live in poverty."

Two sides of one organism. It turns out that "encouraging personal and emotional growth, fostering initiative and leadership, and nurturing social competency" (from the Day Camp brochure), are just as important, and just as valued by kids from poverty as they are by kids from Powder Point. While the programs run independently sharing the same campus, they shape the same effects in the lives of the children — "the core values of caring, honesty, respect, and responsibility" (from the overnight camp brochure).

It's a natural blend for a place like Duxbury, and has been since the camp's origin in 1936. Mindful reflection on the values, traits, and skills required for a vigorous and effective life reveals them to be the same as those required for victory over life's adversities: bonding with others, challenging oneself, exploring new horizons, savoring shared routines, and having fun in life's adventures.

Rich or poor, kids who go to a great camp, according to Michael Fantom, become "more excited about new opportunities offered." In other words, they become more open.

More open in a more open world.